

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 417

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge over Bartons Creek on the U.S. Highway 70 North Bypass in Lebanon, Wilson County, in honor of SFC Joseph D. Bailey.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges in honor of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than Sergeant First Class (SFC) Joseph D. Bailey, who, as a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces A Team in Plei Me, South Vietnam, was mortally wounded on October 20, 1965, in a North Vietnamese attack on his camp; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Bailey was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma, on December 10, 1937; known as "Dan" to family and friends, he enlisted in the Arkansas National Guard in 1954 at age 17; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from high school in 1956, Dan enlisted in the regular Army, completed basic training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and was then assigned to Fort Campbell for advanced infantry training and parachute training; during his three years at

Fort Campbell, he met and married the former Alice Rachel Chastain of Lebanon, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Alice gave birth to their daughter, Connie Sue, on October 16, 1959, during Dan's assignment to the 3rd Armored Division in Gelnhausen, Germany; Dan returned to Lebanon to be present for his daughter's birth, and took his family back to Germany where he served in a variety of positions; and

WHEREAS, in September 1962, Sergeant Bailey volunteered for duty as a military advisor in the Republic of Vietnam; the Bailey family returned to Fort Campbell in September 1962, and ten months later, Dan went to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for Special Forces training; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1965 SFC Bailey received orders to report to Vietnam, and following a brief visit to Lebanon, was deployed as a member of the Special Forces A Team stationed at Plei Me; on October 20, 1965, during a North Vietnamese attack, SFC Bailey lost his life in combat while trying to rescue the crew of a downed U.S. Army helicopter; and

WHEREAS, for his actions during the four-day siege of the camp, during which he raised the United States flag before losing his life in the helicopter crew rescue attempt, SFC Bailey was the recipient of a posthumously awarded Purple Heart, the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star and Palm and the Vietnam Military Merit Medal from the government of South Vietnam; he also held the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal; he is buried in the Stones River National Military Cemetery in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, SFC Bailey's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured

the continuing freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to express its deep appreciation for the singular patriotism, courage and commitment to duty of SFC Joseph D. Bailey; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning Bartons Creek on the U.S. Highway 70 North Bypass in Lebanon, Wilson County, is hereby designated as the "SFC Joseph D. Bailey Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of SFC Joseph D. Bailey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge on the U.S. 70 North Bypass in Lebanon as the "SFC Joseph D. Bailey Memorial Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the Department of Transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the State for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The Department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be

remitted to the Department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with the final five (5) resolving clauses omitted from such copy.